

**To:** Young, Nestor[Young.Nestor@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Rigger, Don[Rigger.Don@epa.gov]  
**From:** Teichert, Candice  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 5:55:15 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Did we receive clarification from HQ on whether or not we can continue to conduct stormwater sampling as needed at Barite?

As previously discussed, the sampling is completely weather dependent. B&V mobilize to the site approx. 12-24 hrs. prior to major rain events and set up ISCO samplers.

**From:** Rigger, Don  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:37 PM  
**To:** Teichert, Candice; Carr, Lofton; Crowley, Jeffery; Zeller, Craig  
**Cc:** Young, Nestor; Taylor, Dawn; Hill, Franklin; Chaffins, Randall  
**Subject:** RE: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

I just talked to Candice. There is a standing RI activity – when there is a significant rainfall event, the RAC contractor mobilizes to the site to collect surface water samples. This could happen at any time. We will need clarification as to whether this is a prohibited activity per the Administrator. If it is, we will discontinue the activity until we get clearance.

**From:** Teichert, Candice  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:22 PM  
**To:** Carr, Lofton; Rigger, Don; Crowley, Jeffery; Zeller, Craig  
**Cc:** Young, Nestor; Taylor, Dawn; Hill, Franklin; Chaffins, Randall  
**Subject:** RE: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Barite Hill: ongoing site characterization (RI/FS) activities. Bureau of Reclamation spillway constructed by ERRPB in 2008 to prevent the catastrophic release of mine water from the Main Pit Lake.

**From:** Carr, Lofton

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:07 PM  
**To:** Rigger, Don; Teichert, Candice; Crowley, Jeffery; Zeller, Craig  
**Cc:** Young, Nestor; Taylor, Dawn; Hill, Franklin; Chaffins, Randall  
**Subject:** RE: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Copper Basin, TN: ongoing pump and treat operations (Removal / Remedial Actions). No investigations planned at this time.

Brewer Gold, SC: ongoing pump and treat operations (Remedial Action). No investigations planned at this time.

Ore Knob, NC: annual private well sampling in October 2015. No investigations planned at this time.

**From:** Rigger, Don  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:01 PM  
**To:** Carr, Lofton; Teichert, Candice; Crowley, Jeffery; Zeller, Craig  
**Cc:** Young, Nestor; Taylor, Dawn; Hill, Franklin; Chaffins, Randall  
**Subject:** FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

RPMs – please read the message from Administrator McCarthy at the end of this string of emails. As you will see in the highlighted passage, we are being instructed to cease investigatory work at mining sites. I am not aware of any such work going on at any of our 5 mining sites right now. Please confirm this is correct (reply to all). Also, please let me know if any mobilizations are planned in the next few months for investigatory work (reply to all). Please reply by 4:15 today. Thanks,

Don

**From:** Chaffins, Randall  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 2:10 PM  
**To:** Hill, Franklin; Rigger, Don  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Giacalone, Kristin" <[Giacalone.Kristin@epa.gov](mailto:Giacalone.Kristin@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** August 12, 2015 at 11:06:51 AM PDT  
**To:** "Chaffins, Randall" <[Chaffins.Randall@epa.gov](mailto:Chaffins.Randall@epa.gov)>  
**Subject: FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments**

Here you go

Kristin Giacalone

Lead Region Coordinator

Superfund and Homeland Security

US EPA Region 2

290 Broadway, 19th floor

New York, NY 10007

212-637-4407

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

**From:** Woolford, James  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 1:17 PM  
**To:** Stalcup, Dana; Mahmud, Shahid; Cooke, Maryt; Bertrand, Charlotte; Barmakian, Nancy; Mugdan, Walter; Rodrigues, Cecil; Hill, Franklin; Giacalone, Kristin; Karl, Richard; Edlund, Carl; Peterson, Mary; Hestmark, Martin; Manzanilla, Enrique; Albright, Rick; Ammon, Doug; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Mackey, Cyndy; Michaud, John; Wells, Suzanne; Scozzafava, MichaelE; Jeng, Richard; Flaks, Art; Jennings, Robert; Heimerman, Jeffrey; Greenberg, Marc; Valdes, Dennisses; Barr, Pamela

**Subject:** FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

DDs - Per voice mails.

Others FYI

Jim Woolford, Director  
Office of Superfund Remediation & Technology Innovation  
US EPA

Sent from my Windows Phone  
Please excuse typos

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**From:** [Stanislaus, Mathy](#)  
**Sent:** 8/12/2015 1:08 PM  
**To:** [Woolford, James](#); [Cheatham, Reggie](#); [Tulis, Dana](#); [Breen, Barry](#); [Natarajan, Nitin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Sent from my Windows Phone

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**From:** [Adm13McCarthy, Gina](#)  
**Sent:** 8/12/2015 11:51 AM  
**To:** [Blumenfeld, Jared](#); [Curry, Ron](#); [Enck, Judith](#); [Garvin, Shawn](#); [Hague, Mark](#); [Hedman, Susan](#); [McGrath, Shaun](#); [McLerran, Dennis](#); [McTeerToney, Heather](#); [Spalding, Curt](#)  
**Cc:** [Fritz, Matthew](#); [Stanislaus, Mathy](#)  
**Subject:** Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

*Good morning everyone,*

*While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities, unless there is imminent risk in a specific case. We are in the process of initiating an independent assessment by a sister federal agency or another external entity to examine the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the outcome from that assessment, we will determine what actions may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site and to identify any immediate threats and consider appropriate response actions.*

*If you have questions or wish to discuss a particular situation please reach out to Mathy.*

*Thank you.*